



SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting Only

Dan Pondella chaired the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) and called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Without objection, Dan Pondella accepted staff's recommendation to allow non-TAC members to provide comments during the TAC's discussion of items on the agenda.

1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

2) General Business

a) Order of Agenda

There was no change to the order of the agenda. The order of the agenda was approved without objection.

b) Consideration of Approval of March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without changes by voice vote. Moved: Rich Ambrose. Seconded: Mas Dojiri.

c) Report from the TAC Chair

Dan Pondella and members thanked Guangyu Wang for his service ahead of his retirement on September 17, 2021.

d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Director

Guangyu Wang introduced his replacement, Marissa Caringella, following his retirement. Wang reported on the Governing Board's approval of the revised Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Monitoring Program, the amendment of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and The Bay Foundation, and the Proposition 50 Grant Program award process and Request

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for Proposals.

i) Proposition 50 Grant Program Proposal Review

Wang reported on the review process for the Proposition 50 Grant Program proposals and outlined the conflict of interest guidelines for review panelists based on legal counsel's input. Wang also encouraged members who do not have a conflict of interest to volunteer to participate on the review panel.

Members commented on the potential perceived conflict of interest for TAC members to participate on the review panel. Wang reported that the panel will also include non-TAC members. Caringella reported on legal counsel's preliminary recommendation regarding perceived conflict of interest. Member comments followed regarding TAC members that submit proposals not participating on the review panel, whether the TAC as a whole should or should not participate on the review panel, development of a conflict of interest code for individual review panelists, and example conflict of interest guidelines.

ii) TAC Membership Appointment and Reappointment

Wang reported that the Governing Board is anticipated to consider approval of TAC membership appointment and reappointment in February 2022, when the terms of the current TAC members expire. Wang encouraged members continue to serve on the TAC. Mas Dojiri commented that he plans to not continue on the TAC and will nominate Dr. Farhana Mohamed, Division Manager of the Environmental Monitoring Division.

Tom Ford reported on recent publications from partners involving high-resolution coastal acidification monitoring data, eutrophication and nutrient loading in the Southern California Bight, and sea urchin mass mortality and kelp forest community structure. Ford reported on the upcoming public board meeting of The Bay Foundation and on Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation including eelgrass transplanting. Karina Johnston reported on the planned implementation of the Manhattan Beach Dune Restoration Project and LA Living Shoreline Project.

e) Member Comment—TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda

There were no member comments.

3) Discussion

a) Planning the Development of the State of the Bay Report

Caitlin Gray presented on the purpose of the State of the Bay Report and summarized the content of the 2015 State of the Bay Report. Gray outlined the

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proposed scope, structure, final products, and timeline and roles to develop the next State of the Bay Report. Gray recommended a concise, public-friendly report and habitat synopsis using existing habitat condition framework and graphics scheme and organized by the seven major habitats identified in the Comprehensive Monitoring Program.

Members commented on the proposed timeline to develop the next State of the Bay Report and the potential to extend the timeline based on the role of the contractor versus the TAC members, such as acquiring data, drafting chapters, reviewing draft chapters, and coordinating working groups. Wang commented that using the existing habitat condition framework and the indicators and data sources identified in the Comprehensive Monitoring Program will help reduce the time to develop the next State of the Bay Report. Member comments followed on the potential budget for the contractor, the intended audience for the State of the Bay Report, and shifting the report to a web-based experience.

Erica Yelensky commented on a web-based approach, examples from other NEPs, and on US EPA's timeline requirements.

b) Additional TAC Member Representation

Guangyu Wang reported that the Governing Board is anticipated to consider approval of TAC membership at its February 2022 meeting and recapped the TAC's previous discussions of additional representation, specifically those with expertise in environmental toxicology, oceanography and coastal processes, environmental engineering, and climate change.

Members commented on the processes to submit candidate recommendations and appoint new members and preference for an oceanographer with expertise in physical processes. Wang clarified that TAC members serve as individuals, not as a representative of their affiliation. Members suggested to send Commission staff candidate recommendations, including, but not limited to those with expertise in the areas listed above, for the TAC's discussion at the next meeting.

Wang announced Phil Markle's retirement and thanked him for the support he provided to the TAC. Markle commented on the continued support from Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts staff following his retirement. Members congratulated Markle and Wang on their retirement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Attendance:

TAC Members:

Richard Ambrose
Mas Dojiri
Phyllis Grifman

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Karen Martin
Dan Pondella (Chair)
Eric Stein

Commission Staff:

Marissa Caringella
Caitlin Gray
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees:

Brooke Rigoni
Curtis Cash, Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment
Erica Yelensky, US Environmental Protection Agency
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Phil Markle, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Stacey Karnya, Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment
Tom Ford, The Bay Foundation